

Message Text

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ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGR-01 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01
ABF-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 /039 W
-----098957 010527Z /10
R 291808Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1107

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AODE, MX, EPAP
SUBJECT: APHIS SCREWORM ERADICATION PROJECT IN MEXICO

REF: STATE 144311

1. EMBASSY IS AWARE OF PROBLEMS PROGRAM HAS HAD IN START-
ING UP OPERATION IN A JOINT, COUNTERPART MANNER. MOST
PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND ARE BEING ADDRESSED.
PROGRAM NOW APPEARS TO BE OPERATING MORE EFFICIENTLY,
ALBEIT IN THE CUMBERSOME FASHION THAT JOINT OPERATIONS
OFTEN REPRESENT.

2. SPECIFICALLY, THE TRANSFER OF MEXICAN PERSONNEL AFTER
THE CHANGE IN FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIONS HAS PRETTY MUCH RUN
ITS COURSE. ALSO:

--NEW SECURITY MEASURES HAVE REDUCED THEFT.
--THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTRACTING OUT AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE
IS BEING INVESTIGATED.
--PROBLEMS WITH TRANSPORTATION, FREE ENTRY PERMITS, WARE-
HOUSING AND OTHER SUCH BOTTLENECKS ARE BEING RESOLVED.

3. COMMISSIONERS' MEETING WAS FRANK AND AGREEMENT WAS
REACHED WITH THE MEXICAN SIDE ON AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR
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SOLUTION OF TRANSPORTATION AND MOST OTHER PROBLEMS. GOM
AGREED THAT COUNTERPART WITH EXPERTISE WOULD MAKE TECH-
NICAL DECISIONS (I.E. U. S. AIRCRAFT OFFICER HAS TECH-
NICAL EXPERTISE AND MEXICAN COUNTERPART IS ECONOMIST).
U. S. ANNOUNCED CHANGE IN PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND REQUESTED
SIMILAR CHANGE ON MEXICAN SIDE. MEXICO PROMISED A REPLY
WITHIN EIGHT DAYS TO THIS REQUEST. PROPOSAL FOR NEW

EMPLOYEES TO BE ON ROLES OF SARH WAS TABLE UNTIL NEXT MEETING WHICH WILL BE IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST. MEXICAN SIDE AGREED THAT U. S. SIDE WOULD NOT GIVE UP CONTROL OF MEXICAN NATIONAL EMPLOYEES UNDER WHATEVER SYSTEM IS USED.

4. SCREWORM INFESTATIONS ARE COSTLY AND RESULT IN LOSSES TO CATTLEMEN AND CONSEQUENTLY HIGHER COSTS TO CONSUMERS. FOR THESE AND OTHER REASONS EMBASSY SHARES SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT WITH RESULTS TO DATE, BUT DOES NOT VIEW THE SITUATION AS DETERIORATING. SINCE THE APRIL COMMISSION MEETING THE WORK SITUATION FOR THE AMERICAN SIDE OF THE COMMISSION HAS SHOWN IMPROVEMENT AND HOPEFULLY WILL IMPROVE FURTHER. WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVES AND AMERICAN COMMISSION EMPLOYEES EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ORIGINAL PROJECTION FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL WAS OPTIMISTIC. PROGRAM GOT LATE START AND CHANGE IN GOM WAS NOT ALLOWED FOR. U. S. SIDE INDICATES AMERICAN PHASE-DOWN WILL BE FEASIBLE AT LATER DATE. WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVES CITED OVER 60 MILLION DOLLARS INVESTED BY U. S.

5. WE VIEW JOINT AFTOSA COMMISSION AND MEDFLY EFFORT IN DIFFERENT LIGHT. BOTH PROGRAMS ARE AIMED AT OUTBREAKS THAT WOULD RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE CLOSING OF THE FRONTIER TO MEXICAN EXPORTS WITH A CONSEQUENT LOSS IN EXPORT EARNINGS. THE SCREWORM PROGRAM, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS NOT AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EASY TO IDENTIFY WITH, AND THE LOSSES OR POTENTIAL LOSSES ARE HARDER TO MEASURE. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE GOM IN THE AFTOSA (FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE) PROGRAM RESULTING FROM THE MEXICAN OUTBREAK IN 1946-47, HAS BEEN THAT THE GOM VIEWS THE PROSPECT OF ANOTHER OUTBREAK AS A SERIOUS THREAT AND HAS PROVEN WILLING TO COOPERATE IN A JOINT PROGRAM.

6. THE GOM ALSO APPEARS COMMITTED TO A PROGRAM TO ERADICATE THE MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY (MEDFLY), AS WITNESSED BY THE ALACRITY WITH WHICH CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY FOR STERILIZATION OF THE MEDFLY HAS PROGRESSED. MEXICO'S DETERMINATION TO STOP THE MEDFLY'S SPREAD FROM GUATEMALA HAS STRAINED RELATIONS WITH THE LATTER.

7. THUS THE PROBLEMS WITH THE SCREWORM SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS AN INDICATOR OF WHAT WE WILL FACE WITH THE MEDFLY PROGRAM. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEST CONTROL, LIVESTOCK, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO10661
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780272-0020
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978065/aaaaaeiw.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dbc25087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION MMO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 144311
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2319260
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APHIS SCREWORM ERADICATION PROJECT IN MEXICO
TAGS: AODE, EPAP, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dbc25087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014